

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
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R 141716Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9116  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, GR, CZ, CSCE  
SUBJECT: GREEK LEFT SUPPORTS CHARTER 77 GROUP

1. THE PROSECUTION OF THE CHARTER 77 GROUP HAS GENERATED UNCHARACTERISTIC PROTESTS FROM THE GREEK LEFT, IN ADDITION TO CONDEMNATION FROM THE EXPECTED QUARTERS. THIS SECTOR OF GREEK POLITICAL OPINION HAS AN ESTABLISHED RECORD OF JOINING PROTESTS AGAINST CHILE, SOUTH AFRICA, VIETNAM (EARLIER), ETC. BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE RETURN OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WITH THE FALL OF THE JUNTA IN 1974 THERE HAS BEEN A WAVE OF COMPLAINT AGAINST REPRESSION IN EASTERN EUROPE. THUS, A GROUP OF LIBERAL AND LEFT-LEANING INTELLECTUALS, POLITICIANS AND ARTISTS (INCLUDING ACTRESS MELINA MECOURI) SIGNED A FEBRUARY 2 PETITON CALLING ON THE CZECH GOVERNMENT TO HALT ITS PROSECUTION OF THE CHARTER 77 GROUP; A SIMILAR GROUP OF 234 INTELLECTUALS PUT THEIR NAMES ON ANOTHER PROTEST; AND THE SMALLISH LEFTIST EDA PARTY (UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT) CALLED FOR A HALT TO THESE REPRESSIVE ACTIONS.

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2. THE EFFORTS OF THE CZECH EMBASSY IN ATHENS TO DEAL WITH THESE PROTESTS HAS BEEN LESS THAN ADROIT. WHEN ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO DELIVER THE FEBRUARY 2 PETITON AND THEN, SUBSEQUENTLY, THE EDA STATEMENT, THE EMBASSY REFUSED TO RECEIVE THEM, ALLEGING THAT THE GREEK PUBLIC WAS MISINFORMED ABOUT EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. SUBSEQUENTLY THE EMBASSY RELEASED A MULTI-

PAGE STATEMENT REGURGITIATING WHAT PRAGUE HAS  
SAID ABOUT THE CHARTER 77 GROUP INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS THAT  
FOREIGN IMPERIALISM AND ANTIACOMMUNIST CIRCLES WERE  
BENINGIT. THESE CZECH RESPONSES HAVE BEEN GREETED  
HERE WIHT A MIXTURE OF BITTER AMUSEMENT AND CONTEMPT.

3. COMMENT: IT IS RATHER REFRESHING TO SEE ELEMENTS OF  
THE LEFT, WHICH NORMALLY FINDS THINGS TO CRITICIZE ONLY  
IN THE WEST, TURN ITS ATTENTION EASTWARD. SEVEN YEARS  
OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN GREECE MADE THIS SECTOR OF  
GREEK POLITICAL OPINION ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO QUESTIONS  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS. MOREOVER, IT NO DOUBT BELIEVES THAT BY  
ATTACKING REPRESSION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IT IS ALSO  
HITTING AT THE GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR,  
WHICH IS KNOWN IN GREECE FOR ITS LOYALTY TO MOSCOW.  
KUBISCH

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, GR, CZ, CSCE  
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